Appl. No.: 10/720,658 Amdt. dated October 12, 2009

Reply to Office action of September 17, 2009

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

With this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1-4, 7, 10, 12-17, 19-23, 25, 33, 38 and 43 and cancels claims 32, 37, and 42 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant also adds new claims 45-47, which respectively depend from independent claims 1, 16 and 21. No new matter is added. Support for new claims 45-47 may be found at least on page 16, lines 1-3 of Applicant's originally-filed specification. Claims 1-10, 12-29, 31, 33, 34, 36, 38, 39, 41 and 43-47 are all the claims currently pending in the application. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all the claims.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

On page 15 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that dependent claims 32, 37 and 42 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the recitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. In this regard, Applicant herein incorporates the features of dependent claims 32, 37 and 42 into respective independent claims 1, 16 and 21 and cancels claims 32, 37 and 42 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. Examiner Dean is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

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Respectfully submitted,

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